(a) whether it is a fact that availability of giner from China in Indian market at very cheap price is adversely affecting the ginger production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the adverse impact on the production of the same in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The domestic prices of ginger which was ruling high till Decemebr, 2005, started declining thereafter inthe months of January - February, 2006 due to heavy fresh arrivals in the ensuing harvesting season starting from the months of Novemebr - December, 2005. The attractive price prevalent during last year encouraged the farmers to go in for cultivation of ginger in more areas and adopt intensive cultivations methods resulting in higher yield. Import of ginger into the country during 2005-06 was 13,370 tonnes valued at Rs. 30.62 crores as against the import of 10,518 tonnes valued at Rs. 22.10 crores during the year 2004-05. Since, imported ginger is inferior in quality, and is used for processing of powders, oil extraction for re-export etc, it may not have significant impact on the domestic market.

(c) The Government of India is implementing various promotional schemes for increasing the production and productivity of horticultural crop including ginger under the National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission on development of horticulture for the North-Eastern states.

Fooder crisis

576. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no policy exists in the country on how to feed the 500 million or so livestock in spite of the fact that in rural areas domestic animals are the engines that drive the economy;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the fodder and water crisis are part of the larger crisis of rural areas; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to deal with the fodder crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. In pursuance of the National Agriculture Policy, a major thrust is given to the promotion of fodder crops and fodder trees to improve animal nutrition.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following schemes have been implemented for enhancement of feed and fodder production:

1. Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme comprising of the following components;

(i) Establishment of Fodder Block Making Units.

(ii) Grassland Development, including Grass Reserves.

(iii) Fodder Seed Production and Distribution.

(iv) Biotechnology Research Projects.

2. The Government has established Central Fodder Development Organisation comprising of seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration, one Central Fodder Seed Production Farm and one Central Minikit Testing programme on fodder crops for production of fodder seed, organising demonstration and training programmes on production of high yielding varities of fodder crops.

Requirement of Pulses

577. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the domestic requirement of pulses and indigenous production thereof during the last five years, year-wise and item-wise;

(b) the details of import of pulses during that period, year-wise and item-wise; and